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This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/379, 420, filed January 27, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,001,555, issued on December 14, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part application of USSN 09/312,331, filed September 23, 1994, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

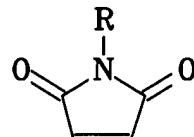
Since Claims 22-27 submitted in the Preliminary Amendment have been renumbered as Claims 24-29 by the Examiner, this Amendment and Response will refer to those claims according to the Examiner's revised numbering system. In addition, it is believed that references to base claims or any intervening claims in the Preliminary Amendment have also been amended by the Examiner commensurate with the Examiner's revised numbering system.

Please cancel Claims 22 and 23 that were present in the original parent application.

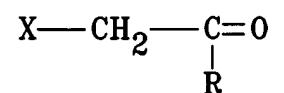
Please amend Claim 24 as follows.

24. (Amended) A composition comprising an inactivated retrovirus, wherein the retrovirus is inactivated due to disruption of one or more CCHC zinc fingers by contact with a compound selected from the group consisting of:

disulfides having the formula R-S-S-R;



maleimides having the formula



alpha-halogenated ketones having the formula

hydrazides having the formula R-NH-NH-R;